(b) if so, what are the details of the said complaints; and

(c) what action has since been taken on the same, indicating the result achieved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH): (a) and (b) Government has received complaints from the consumers regarding inadequate availability of titanium dioxide in the country.

(c) The manufacture of Titanium Dioxide has been delicensed in order to encourage additional capacities. Government had also temporarily reduced duty on import of Titanium Dixoide to enable the actual users to import the same at a reasonable price.

Supply of titanium dioxide

291. SHRI MOSTAFA BIN QUASEM:

DR. R. K. PODDAR:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether applications for appointment as stockist of titanium dioxide pigment were invited from all over the country recently; and

(b) if so, what quantity of titanium is expected to be released to these new stockists?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH): (a) and (b) The Central Government does not oversee the appointment of stioskists or release of Titanium Dioxide to them by the manufacturers. At present, only two units are engaged in the manufacture of Titanium Dioxide in the country. Both these units are in Kerala and are under the administrative control of the State Government of Kerala.

Pressure tactics on bakreshwar Thermal Power Project

292. SHRI M.A. BABY:

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE:

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Central Government have exercised pressure tactics on Bakreshwar Thermal Power Project;

(b) if so whether Government are now planning to award the project to the Kulijian Corporation and C. Itoh; and

(c) if so, by when a decision is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Global Tenders by NTPC

293. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether NTPC invited global tenders for its three proposed gas-based power projects to be located at Kawaas (Gujarat) Auraiya (U.P.) and Anta (Rajasthan);

(b) if so, what are the names of the lowest three bidders;

(c) whether it is a fact that NTPC tenders exaluation team while loading or adding up cost over the amount quoted by a bidder made a third party as the lowest bidder; and